the Richmond Review

December 2024 RichmondSunsetNews.com FREE

D-1 Supervisor Connie Chan Reelected

By Frances Queen

Connie Chan is celebrating her election victory, earning a second term as District 1 supervisor.

Chan, an incumbent, ultimately edged out Marjan Philhour in a tight race that required three rounds of ballot counting.

The supervisor, who represents the Richmond District, said her mentality is to bring her full range of experiences, values and skills to her work in representing her constituents.

Chan moved to San Francisco from Hong Kong at age 13 with her mom and younger brother. The trio settled in Chinatown where she attended public school, which is where she learned English. She graduated from UC Davis with a bachelor's degree in religious studies. After college, Chan moved back to San Francisco where she held volunteer and paid interpreter and community organizer positions, primarily supporting Chinese-speaking San Franciscans.

In her early career, Chan worked for District 10 Supervisor Sophie Maxwell. She had the opportunity to build relationships and offer support to Chinese immigrants moving from Chinatown to buy homes in

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Incumbent Richmond District Supervisor Connie Chan won a tight race, earning a second term on the SF Board of Supervisors. *Photo by Michael Durand.*

Seawall Plan Near Wastewater Plant Approved

By Thomas K. Pendergast

While the rest of the country debates the reality of climate change and sea levels rising, San Francisco is moving ahead with a plan to keep a sewage-water treatment plant from falling into the ocean.

The Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant sits just east of what remains of the Great Highway extension between Sloat and Skyline boulevards.

The beach and cliffs on the western side of the roadway have been falling into the ocean since the 1990s. Last May, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors officially closed that extension roadway because it is teetering on the cliff's edge.

On Nov. 14, the California Coastal Commission (CCC) approved the City's $175 million plan to build a 3,200-foot-long seawall buried 55 feet deep at a sloping angle to protect the Lake Merced Tunnel and add a walking trail on top with other amenities, roughly along the lines of where the roadway is now.

Periodic dumping of more sand by the Army Corps of Engineers will cost about $1 million each time but is considered essential.

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's (SFPUC) Senior Project Manager Anna Roche described the basics of the project to the CCC.

"It's a very vertical area. The sand was placed in a very vertical manner to match the bluff that is out there now," Roche said. "That is not what the conditions are going to be when the project is built. The area is going to move back 80 feet, opening up 80 feet of beach, pushing that area back in a much more gentle slope, so that when the sand is placed, it doesn't have that interface that it has now.

"We've been working for 15 years with the Army Corps of

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Legion of Honor Celebrates Reaching the Century Mark

By Klyde Java

On Nov. 9, the Legion of Honor began its 100th anniversary celebration with festivities including a cake picnic, screen-printing press and portrait station with the museum's most prominent sculpture, a bronze cast of "The Thinker," by Auguste Rodin (1904).

A performance from the George Washington High School marching band ushered in the party with heavy drums and harmonic brass. As part of the Free Saturdays program, Bay Area residents delighted in free admission to the museum.

The weekend-long celebration began with an opening ceremony, consisting of remarks from House Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi; San Francisco supervisors Connie Chan and Aaron Peskin; the consul general of France in San Francisco, Florian Cardinaux; and the grand chancelier de la Légion d'Honneur, France, François Lecointre.

Thomas P. Campbell, director and CEO of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco (FAMSAF), was awarded a congressional certificate by Pelosi. Campbell and Lecointre concluded the event with a centennial cake cutting.

Once the site of the City-owned Golden Gate Cemetery, San Francisco mogul Adolph Spreckels purchased the land and gifted it to his wife Alma Spreckels who convinced him to open an art museum. This suggestion resulted in the creation of the Legion of Honor (previously known as the Palace of the Legion of Honor).

"Inspired by the French pavilion at the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition,

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Richmond Is Home to a Treasure Trove of Digital Information

By Nicholas David

The print edition of this newspaper was once the only edition available, before the internet came along. The banner was orange and black, stylized "the Richmond ReView," and the paper featured monthly opinion columns from then-Mayor Art Agnos and Frank Jordan after him.

In 1990 the paper ran a small advertisement listing Christian Science Churches across the city, including one at 300 Funston Ave. All of this is easily accessible online thanks to the organization that now occupies that building on the corner of Funston and Clement, no longer a Christian Science church.

The Internet Archive is host to millions of digitized and preserved ephemera – more than 150 petabyte (1,000 terabytes or one million gigabytes) of material, from newspaper scans to radio shows and television broadcasts – including most editions of the Richmond Review since 1988. Visitors to the Archive will be sure to hear its lofty mission, likely more than once: Providing "universal access to all knowledge."

The Internet Archive is dramatically lit up at night. The repository of all aspects of human history houses thousands of trillions of bytes of digital information. *Photo by Michael Durand.*

"I think this is the challenge of our times," said Mark Graham, who directs The Wayback Machine, which has archived billions of web pages since 1996. Far from just a nostalgia trip (which it is certainly good for), Graham sees the Internet Archive as an antidote to a widespread media malaise, an unintended consequence of the internet media landscape.

"What we've experienced over the last few decades is a massive proliferation and diversification in the availability of information and material in all different sources and all different mediums," Graham said. "This information diet has been poisoned. It has been poisoned by mis and disinformation."

The Internet Archive is a project for our times, woven into the fabric of the digital age. Not coincidentally, the nonprofit is also a part of the urban fabric in the Richmond District.

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Local Artists Featured at ‘tiny/HUGE’ Art Gallery Presentations

By Noma Faingold

Ceramicist Terrie Raphael, 77, who lives in the Outer Richmond District, does not like marketing herself.

She has a website called The Curious Potter, but she does not sell her inspired and tasteful mugs, plates and vases on it. In fact, she admits she rarely updates it. She also has an Instagram account. Her last post was in May.

“Social media creates its own energy, as long as you feed it,” she said.

A couple of local shops and galleries carry Raphael’s pieces year-round and she welcomes customers into her studio, located at Ruby’s Clay Studio and Gallery in the Castro.

“I try to find non-tech ways of getting my work out to people,” Raphael said. “I’d rather spend my time creating than on social media. If I could, I would be in my studio eight days a week.”

Raphael is grateful that Studio Gallery, which exclusively showcases Bay Area artists, has again included her in the annual, well-promoted “tiny” show, now in its 20th year. It opened on Nov. 8 and runs through Dec. 23.

The “tiny” show features more than 225 artists and more than 300 pieces. All works are required to be under seven-by-seven inches, a nod to San Francisco’s 49 square miles. The show is accessible to the public because all of the art, whether paintings, mixed media, ceramics, sculpture, photos or prints, is priced under $500. Many pieces are in the $200-$300 range and several are under $100.

“It’s great for people who have never bought original art before,” co-owner Jennifer Farris said. “Almost anyone can squeeze a five-by-seven painting in their home. For new buyers, it’s like getting your first dress, which would not be a wedding dress.”

Unlike most gallery shows, customers who make purchases can leave with the art. Farris and her husband, co-owner and painter Rab Terry quickly replace the sold art in the gallery with pieces they have in reserve. They also sell the “tiny” art online. According to Farris, the gallery sells hundreds of works during the event. Simultaneously, on display through Dec. 23, is the studio’s “HUGE” show, consisting of several large-scale works, providing a visual contrast in the Polk Gulch space.

“The show evolves over its duration and is different every day,” Farris said.

The “tiny/HUGE” presentation typifies Farris’s and Terry’s commitment to Bay Area artists, which has been their mission since they opened Studio Gallery in 2003. Many of the artists chosen are well established, while this year, 39 artists are making their debut in the space.

“This event is a good way to keep in touch with artists and discover Bay Area talent,” Farris said. “It really anchors us in the community.”

Raphael submitted mostly functional objects to the “tiny” show in the last few years. This year, she selected wall collages, such as one with purple ceramic disks attached to a square black wood panel.

At non-profit Ruby’s – Raphael’s home away from home – she has her own studio space, which she finally earned through seniority and nearly two decades of being on the board and volunteering. She is surrounded by shelves of vases, mugs, planters, bowls and platters with a variety of glaze color treatments and an assortment of forms. Most are successfully completed creations. But there are also a few experiments that did not quite work out.

The retired cultural anthropologist, who spent much of her career in health care planning for older adults, likes to use the potter’s wheel, as well as make items by hand.

“It’s very satisfying to work at the wheel. Once it goes around, the world kind of narrows to what’s going on right in front of me,” Raphael said. “My hands are working in total coordination.”

Heather Robinson, 50, who lives in the Outer Sunset with husband Jaye, brings seven vibrant abstract paintings to the “tiny.” Her signature style is colorful, layered work, influenced by textile design and architecture. However, what locals have responded to in past “tiny” shows is her quirky series called “Sutro in Fog,” with the focal point being Sutro Tower.

“She takes a theme and explores it,” Farris said. “She elevates the city scene with imaginative elements and great colors.”

Web designer Robinson, who goes to Arc Studios and Gallery in SOMA five days a week, describes her larger scale paintings as “optimistic.” Geometric patterns share the canvas with unpredictable shapes and free-form brushwork. She uses stencils as a foundation for most paintings.

“But a lot of the other layers are unplanned and imperfect,” Robinson said. “I don’t know how they are going to turn out. Each painting is a little snapshot of my mental state at the time.”

Using bold colors does not just draw art lovers to her paintings, they often uplift Robinson’s mood.

“My work helps me feel that I have a place in the world,” she said. “It’s partly why I paint with cheerful colors.”

The “tiny/HUGE” show runs through Dec. 23 at Studio Gallery, 1641 Pacific Ave., Thursday through Monday, noon-6 p.m. Learn more at STUDIOGallerySF.com. Facebook: studiogallerysf.Instagram: @studiogallerysf.

Links to explore more work of the profiled artists:

Heather Robinson: heatherrobinson.com, Instagram: @hnrfineart, Facebook: heatherrobinsonfineart.

Terrie Raphael: thecuriouspotter.com, Instagram: @thecuriouspotter.

The Curious P
Terrie Raphael
#thecuriouspotter

Above: Ceramicist Terrie Raphael of the Richmond District is working on a piece at Ruby’s Clay Studio and Gallery, her home away from home. *Photo by Noma Faingold.* Below: Outer Sunset artist Heather Robinson puts the finishing touches on one of her paintings. *Photo by Bob Hsiang.*

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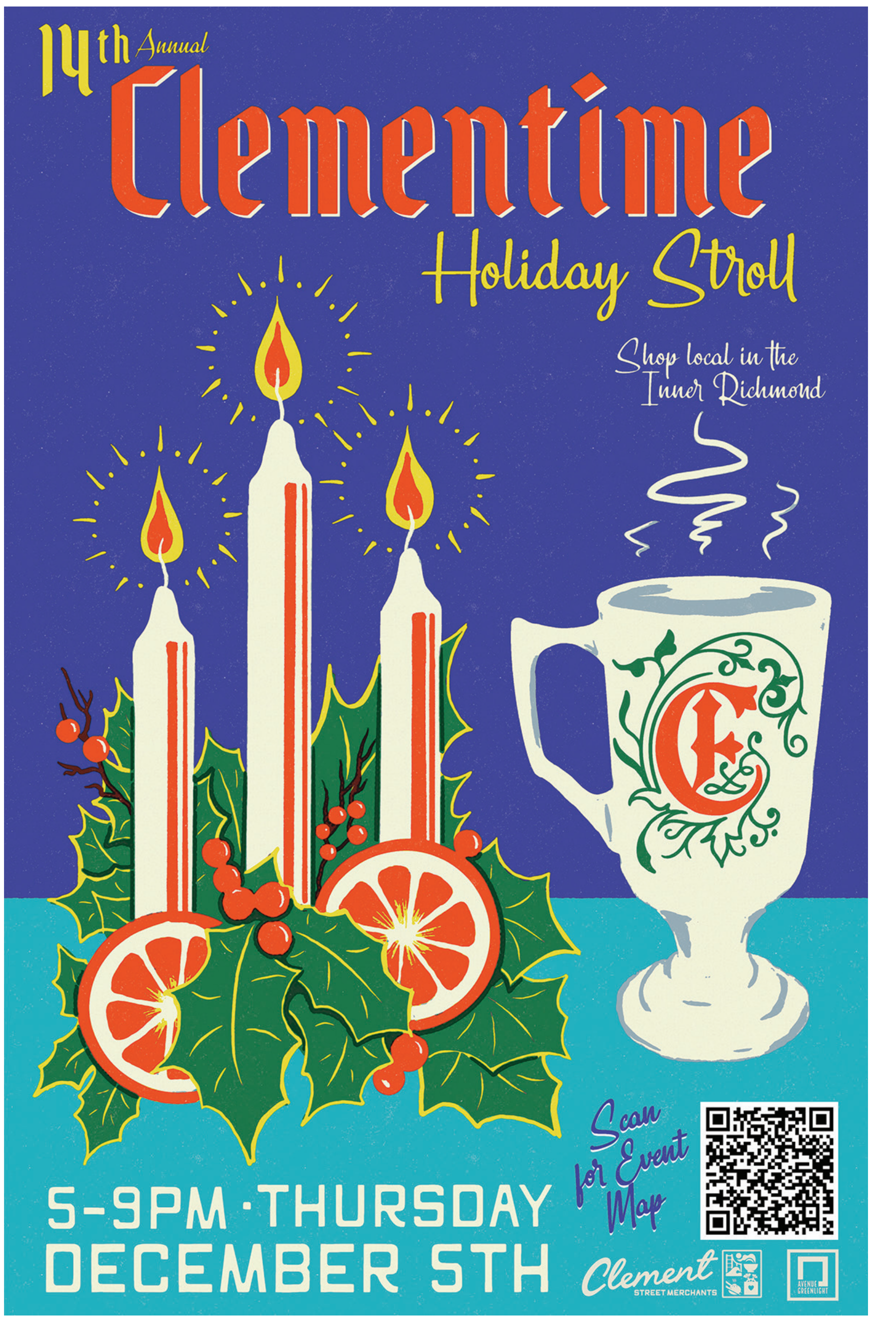
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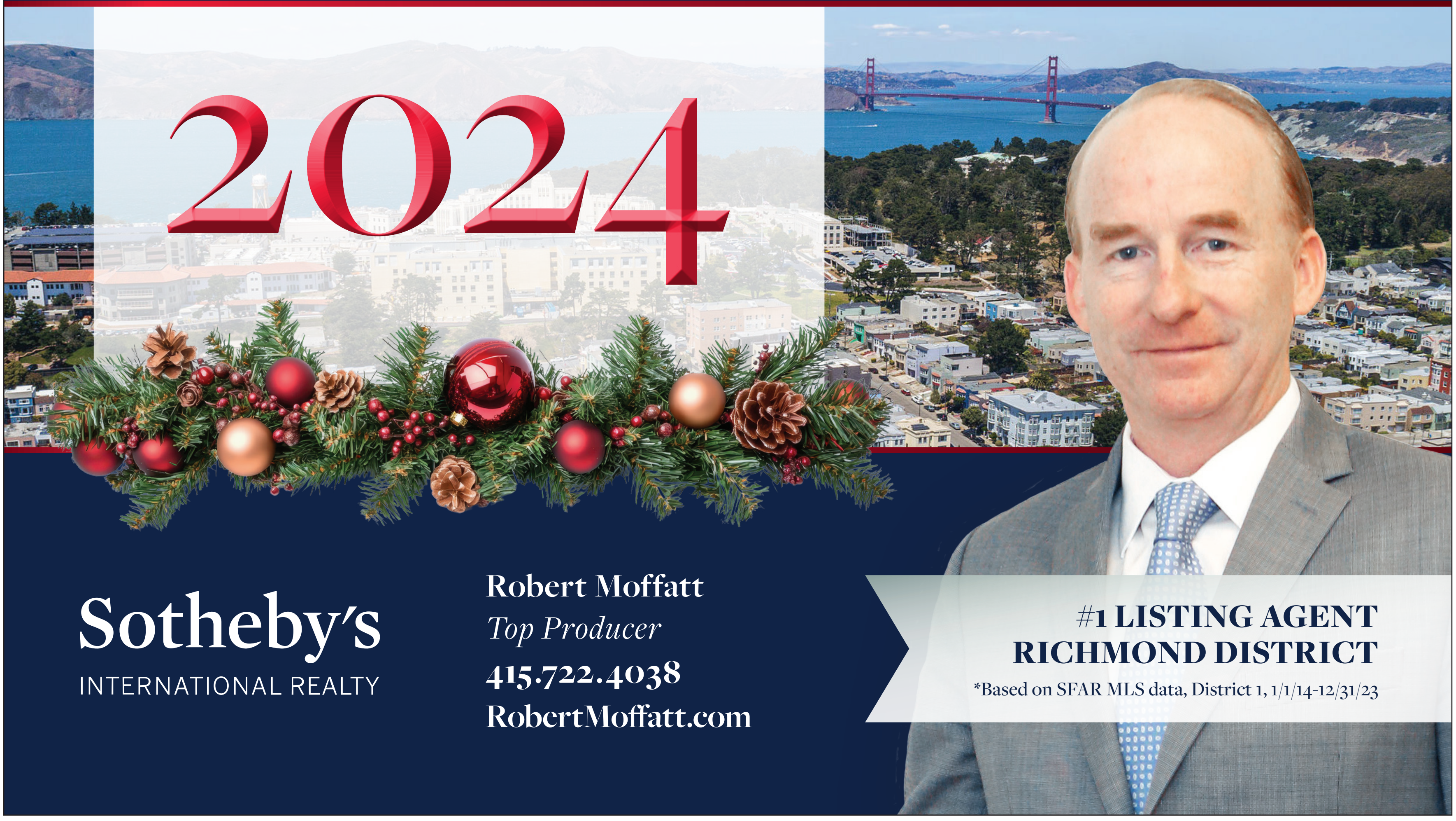

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Seawall Plan Approved

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WESTSIDE PUMP STATION

The Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant sits just east of what remains of the Great Highway extension between Sloat and Skyline boulevards. The sewage-water treatment plant is threatened by coastal erosion caused by the effects of climate change. ***Photo by Michael Durand.***

Engineers to get that sand placed and it was sort of a trial run. We continue to talk to the Army Corps of Engineers and are working with them on an agreement for the future."

The work began with the creation of the Ocean Beach Master Plan as a guiding document, which was published in 2012.

"A project of this size, that means many compromises," Roche said. "It takes multiple years with many people in the room discussing. You're not going to get it right for everybody, but it's a compromise. And that's what we've been working on."

She said this is the first large managed retreat project happening in the state of California.

"The design takes into account sea level rise through the end of the century. It is incorporated into our design. We take these things very seriously," Roche said.

While critics of the plan generally acknowledge the importance of saving the sewage plant and the Lake Merced Tunnel serving it, which sits under what's still left of the roadway, and also in dealing with climate change, some are not happy with this particular plan.

Nina Atkind, manager of the San Francisco chapter of the Surfrider Foundation and an Outer Sunset resident, urged the commission to demand a better plan from the SFPUC.

"While we recognize the challenge of protecting critically vulnerable infrastructure like the Lake Merced Tunnel, SFPUC's proposed solution – a 3,200-foot-long and 35-foot-tall sea wall – is neither forward thinking nor aligned with the Coastal Act's vision of sustainable shoreline management," Atkind said. "It is one of the largest armoring projects ever to come before you. Approving this as designed sets a dangerous precedent for excessive coastal armoring across California, undermining public access and natural shoreline preservation.

"The Ocean Beach Master Plan, developed through decades of community collaboration, prioritized managed retreat, partial highway relocation and temporary, low-profile armoring to protect infrastructure while planning for relocation inland. Instead of honoring this vision, SFPUC proposes a permanent wall that undermines years of planning and community input.

"The Commission must require a plan that aligns with the Ocean Beach Master Plan by incorporating true nature-based solutions and a binding timeline for managed retreat," she said.

A consultant involved in the creation of the OBMP, however, disagrees.

"An approach that's entirely nature-based has never been considered feasible, nor has the wholesale relocation of billions of dollars in critical public infrastructure," Benjamin Grant, a consultant who did extensive work on the OBMP, told the commission. "Rather, from the beginning, the Ocean Beach Master Plan and subsequent studies have always included a combination of managed retreat, beach nourishment and structural protection, as does the project before you.

"Some critics say that this project does not reflect the Ocean Beach Master Plan. I disagree," he said.

"The (OBMP) vision document is full of ideas (from) over a decade ago," Grant said. "Some of those ideas have moved forward and some have not. That is to be expected, as the nature of visions and of course the project has evolved in a variety of ways. It is explicitly acknowledged that this project is not an end-stage in either intention or regulatory approval, only the next phase in the long-term management of this coastline."

Moving the plant further inland has also been proposed but Dan Sider of the San Francisco Planning Department estimated the cost of doing that to be in the billions of dollars.

"There's the Westside Pump Station; there's the wastewater treatment plant itself, there's the ocean outfall that stands offshore and that's where the price tag in the billions of dollars comes from," Sider told the Commission. "It's all of those things together, including the Lake Merced Tunnel."

He also said the City's assessment is that there is not enough available land nearby to move the plant.

"The San Francisco Zoo is there. There's a patchwork of City-owned land there, but it doesn't appear that there's the amount of land that would be necessary to re-engineer, reconstruct all these facilities and make it work, from our perspective."

The CCC voted unanimously to approve the City's plan.

Legion of Honor at 100 Years Old

Continued from page 1

Alma Spreckels, with the support of her husband Adolph, sought to create a museum celebrating French art and culture, leading to the construction of the Legion of Honor," Peskin said in his remarks.

The Legion opened on Armistice Day in 1924 and established itself as a monument to classic European art and culture as well as serving as a memorial for the 3,600 California soldiers who perished during World War I.

Since the museum's inception, its collections have expanded dramatically, boasting rosettes from 2000 B.C. to pieces from 19th century impressionists Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Vincent van Gogh. The museum still acquires pieces; a recent purchase of Renaissance artist Lavinia Fontana's "Portrait of Bianca degli Utili Maselli and Her Children" debuted earlier this year.

The joy of the arts was the recurring motif of the day. Curious observers stood stoically in front of paintings, while others meticulously sketched the luminous water lilies of Monet. Visitors enjoyed a slice of cake just outside the museum's triumphal arch.

The day's activities reinforced the importance of the arts and its ability to generate curiosity and reflection.

"The arts are unifying to our country, and I think it's going to be the salvation of our country," Pelosi said.

She believes art and its museums are spaces "where we can come together, forget our differences, be inspired, laugh together and cry together."

The Legion of Honor is located at 100 34th Ave. Learn more at famsf.org/visit/legion-of-honor.

Legion of Honor
100
Welcome!
Celebrate 100 years of art and ideas.

The centennial celebration at the Legion of Honor included a cake party on the front lawn (left) and a performance by the nearby George Washington High School band (above). ***Photos by Klyde Java.***

City Hall

Supervisor Connie Chan

2024 Year in Review

As we wrap up 2024, I would like to take a moment to look back on all the work we accomplished together.

We helped close a $800 million budget deficit, while scrutinizing wasteful spending and preserving critical services for seniors, working families and tenants. We passed impactful legislation, advanced transit and pedestrian safety measures, brought family-friendly events to the district and connected with thousands of Richmond residents at activities, boba and coffee shops throughout the district. I am so proud of our work this year, and proud to continue to serve as your supervisor for the next four years.

Legislation

This year, our office introduced and passed more than 50 pieces of legislation and held public hearings into issues affecting every day San Franciscans, including:

- Inquiries to expedite repairs to the Richmond Senior Center.
- Holding the San Francisco Board of Education and the superintendent accountable to our students and communities.
- Strengthening safety protocols to the City's Fire Code.
- Safeguarding local jobs from automation in parcel delivery services.
- Expanding protections for small businesses impacted by city construction projects.
- Protecting union work.
- Holding city departments and city contractors accountable as your budget chair.

This work advanced and improved laws in San Francisco to protect working families.

Housing and Direct Services

This month, the City's affordable housing lottery system, DAHLIA, has begun accepting applications for 4200 Geary Blvd., a new housing development of 100% affordable housing units for our seniors. The building has 96 units, and priority will go to Richmond District neighbors and veterans.

In addition to 4200 Geary Blvd., we saw the new community hub for CYC open on Clement Street, providing services for our seniors and youth alike. We also have projects in the works with Self-Help for the Elderly to create senior housing on Clement, and broke ground on the new building for Richmond Area Multi Services (RAMS) on Clement in the Inner Richmond, to provide culturally and linguistically competent mental health services to Richmond residents.

This month, we are reaching another milestone and will be introducing legislation to advance housing development at the Alexandria Theatre site. This legislation will re-zone the site for 76 units of housing, which will be two- to three-bedroom units suitable for families. The legislation also will allow the owner to develop the site while preserving key historical features, like the marquee and blade sign, that are integral to the history and character of the Richmond neighborhood. We know this project is much anticipated by the community and we will provide updates as it progresses.

Transit

Studies have shown that speed is the number one factor in fatal traffic collisions. Knowing this, we partnered with Assemblymember Phil Ting, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), and the County Transportation Authority (SFCTA) to engineer traffic-calming measures along the Fulton Street corridor. We lowered the speed limit from 30 m.p.h. to 25 m.p.h. and narrowed the lanes to further slow traffic. Next year we will install speed cameras at key intersections for assistance in enforcement of the speed limit. We also installed a flashing pedestrian beacon on Outer Geary Boulevard and will see speed cameras installed along Geary early next year. My team also continues to work with SFMTA on traffic-calming measures along Balboa and Cabrillo streets, near our elementary schools, to help prevent traffic incidents and will be rolling out the Arguello Boulevard protected bike lane in the new year.

Neighborhood Investments

This year, we partnered with the Civic Joy Fund to bring summer night markets to the Heart of the Richmond. Thousands of neighbors joined us and local merchants and makers for fun on Clement. We can't wait to bring these markets back next year. We invested the Golden Gate Park Community Benefits Fund to give back to the Richmond through film festivals at the Balboa Theatre, new ping pong tables at the Richmond Recreation Center, nature educational programming and dahlia planting at Cabrillo Playground. The last film festival for the year at Balboa Theatre is coming up this weekend!

We also expanded the retired police ambassador program to the Richmond. We now have ambassadors patrolling Inner and Central Richmond, working with our merchants and visitors to help keep our district safe and clean. We will continue to push for further expansion to the Outer Richmond and beyond.

Thank you for your trust in me as your supervisor. Working together, we can continue to build on these investments in the new year and beyond. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and a very happy new year!

Connie Chan represents District 1 on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. She can be reached at 415-554-7410 or chanstaff@sfgov.org.

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Real Estate

John M. Lee

Real Estate Market Review

Looking back, as 2024 comes to an end, we have had another interesting year in the real estate market. The question being asked at the end of the year is always: "Where is the real estate market headed?"

The last up cycle in real estate finally ended in 2022, which started the downward trend and continued last year with higher inflation rates and rising interest rates causing even slower sales. This year, with the presidential and mayoral elections, the focus turned to issues such as crime, homelessness, affordable housing, inflation and how to make the City better. Following is a short recap of what happened this year in the San Francisco market.

The market started the year slow with the holiday carryover from 2023 and remained that way throughout the year. Owners trying to sell were disappointed by the market reaction to their properties. If the home was all fixed up, in a desirable location and at an attractive price, sellers were still able to get good prices as there are still buyers around. However, if there were some defects, the property might sit on the market for some time and sell at a discounted price.

Our preliminary numbers are showing that our sales in San Francisco will be up about 10.5% and prices up about 4.9% from 2023. I will do a more thorough analysis of our local Richmond and Sunset districts next month.

What does this mean? Is the downtrend over? Has the real estate market found a bottom and will trend up from here?

The readers of my columns know that our market operates in cycles which bottomed out in 2009, and we were in a strong recovery mode until 2022, including large double-digit appreciation from 2012-2015. The next few years came with slower or normal rate of appreciation.

In 2020, COVID-19 hit and we had a stoppage in the market for a couple of months before sales came roaring back strong with people reconsidering their long-term housing situation and taking advantage of historically low interest rates. Our market here on the west side did very well as the trend of moving from high-density to low-density locations was evident throughout and created much demand in the Richmond and Sunset districts. Prices increased here more than other parts of the City.

A down cycle started in 2022 and continued in 2023. Inflation was high and the Feds kept raising interest rates to try and keep it under control. The raises totaled 5.25% over the last two years. With each increase, mortgage rates rose accordingly. This year, the Feds were supposed to decrease interest rates about six times, but they ended up dropping rates only twice for a total of .75%.

While movement of long-term mortgage rates track close to 10-year treasury yields, the fed funds rate is one component that can affect it. Mortgage rates are more complicated as they also depend on other factors such as the supply and demand of funds and market trends. In 2024, 30-year mortgage rates started the year at about 7.5%, then dipped to 6% and ended the year at about 6.75%.

So where is the market heading in 2025? I believe that we have seen the worst of this market. Normally the cycle is about seven years up and three to four years down or flat before we recover. Currently we are at the bottom of the cycle. I expect that prices will continue to be flat to slightly up in 2025.

There is some excitement around Daniel Lurie becoming our next mayor and optimism about what he will bring to the City and how he will fix the problems we have. While people are worried about the Trump victory, the stock market and economy did do well when he was president.

We are fortunate in San Francisco that, despite the problems we have, we are still a desirable place to live and there are always buyers purchasing. So, if you are a seller, you can still sell your property at the right price. If you are a buyer, I would recommend proceeding with caution as large price appreciation will not be back for a couple more years, but there are opportunities out there. If you are a real estate investor, now might be a good time to pick up properties at prices that you could not have negotiated in the last few years.

I enjoyed speaking and exchanging emails with you this past year. Many of you had some great questions and insights about our market and the Richmond and Sunset districts. I wish you a safe holiday season and a prosperous 2025!

John M. Lee is a broker with Compass specializing in the Richmond and Sunset districts. If you have any real estate questions, call him at 415-465-0505 or email johnlee@isellsf.com. Find an archive of his columns at RichmondSunsetNews.com.

Richmond Homes Sold in November*

Address	Bed	Bath	Sq. Ft.	Price
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815 26th Ave.	3	2	2,095	1,598,000
810 44th Ave.	3	2	1,992	1,700,000
254 12th Ave.	3	3	1,750	1,803,000
722 37th Ave.	4	3.5	2,321	1,950,000
427 35th Ave.	4	2.5	2,100	2,508,888
671 21st Ave.	4	2.5	3,025	2,650,000
22 Kittredge Ter.	4	3	2,270	2,900,000
471 22nd Ave.	5	3.5	2,242	3,100,000
730 Funston Ave.	5	4	5,335	4,025,000
346 El Cam. Del Mar	4	4.5	4,265	4,627,500

**Partial listing. Source: M.L.S.*

A Celebration of Life Ceremony Held at Simple Pleasures for Virgil Jackson

By Beth Lederer

A large crowd gathered at Simple Pleasures Cafe in the Outer Richmond on Nov. 14, for a celebration of life ceremony to pay tribute to Virgil Jackson, a central figure at the coffee shop who recently passed away.

Customers and employees who interacted with Jackson praised him as an immensely talented, smart, curious, well respected and personable man.

A science teacher at George Washington High School since 2002, he had both an affinity for learning and teaching.

The ceremony was held on open mic night because Jackson was instrumental in restarting it after the COVID-19 pandemic. Jackson was both the M.C. and organizer. He created the space for artists to perform.

Three hours of tributes poured in. There was a complete line-up of musicians, songwriters, employees and customers sharing memories, poetry and a slide show that was put to the music of both a Leonard Cohen song, "Hey, That's No Way to Say Goodbye," and one of Jackson's original songs, "Ashes From My Heart."

The audience was able to connect with Jackson on a deeper emotional level when handouts were distributed. They sang two of his original songs: "Cowboy Lullaby" and "Ashes From My Heart."

Natasha Jong led the whole group in "Cowboy Lullaby," an introspective song with poignant lyrics: "Settle down little cowboy, Settle down by yourself, 'cause the sun is going down, You're the only one around, And I know you're gonna make it by yourself."

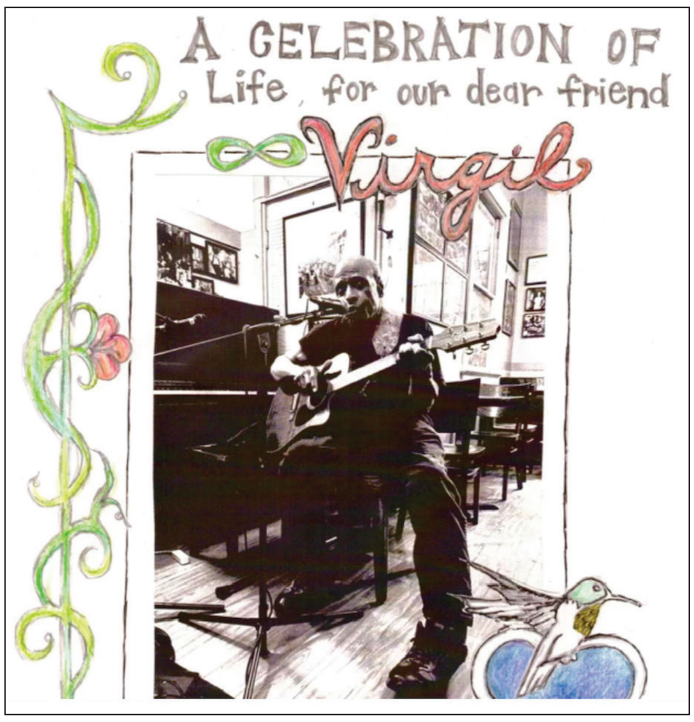
Jong also played homage to Jackson by singing "Joan of Arc" by Leonard Cohen.

Jong's voice is ethereal. She is a talented singer who got her start at Thursday's Open Mic Night. She thanked Jackson for mentoring, supporting and encouraging her in her singing career. They were planning on doing a duet together of "Joan of Arc," but they never got around to it.

Later in the evening, everybody sang "Ashes From My Heart," Jackson's original song. It was a catchy tune with a clarity of message that fit the moment.

Ahmed Riad and Diana Riggio, the owners of the cafe, hosted the event and welcomed everyone into the space.

Riad recognized John Faherty for setting up the flower arrangement, Rick Judge for putting the slideshow together and Eric Lindsey for promoting and putting the word out.



Flyer for the celebration of life ceremony at open mic night at Simple Pleasures Cafe on Outer Balboa Street. *Courtesy graphic.*

Riad also shared a touching story about a bottle of wine Jackson bought for the $10 Secret Santa gift exchange many years ago that was never opened.

"Just don't wait to do things until tomorrow because tomorrow may never come," he said.

Riad also mentioned a conversation he had once with Jackson where Simple Pleasures was quoted in a news article as "everyone's living room."

"No, it's not a living room, it's a sanctuary," Jackson replied.

As the tributes were shared, a picture developed that open mic night was the creative space where Jackson thrived. He also enjoyed performing. He was considered an excellent songwriter. He sang and played guitar, and his favorite artist was Leonard Cohen. Other favorite musicians were Emmy Lou Harris, Bob Dylan and the Rolling Stones.

The tributes also showed how Jackson personally touched so many lives. He saw the raw talent in others where they may have been too shy to see it in themselves. He encouraged, supported and pushed others to have the courage to step up to the mic.

Sarah Healy started working at Simple Pleasures more than two years ago and met Jackson during open mic night. She was also encouraged by Jackson to perform. Healy painted and dedicated a portrait of Jackson which will be displayed at Simple Pleasures Cafe.

John Faherty, an employee at Simple Pleasures, delighted the audience with a few stories. One was the first time he made a cappuccino for Jackson. Faherty found out how specific Jackson was about the foam on his cappuccino.

"Double cappuccino, so foamy, if you threw it, would float across the room," Jackson told him.

Adam Henderson describes himself as an inventor, artist and writer of poetry. Henderson said he connected with Jackson on a very deep level. A platform emerged for his poetry. A space was created to experiment and to collaborate with musicians.

Jackson inspired Henderson to take the next step. The poem that he recited was more than 10 minutes long. It was a good-bye to Jackson. The audience was mesmerized as they listened intently.

For Jackson, Simple Pleasures was like family – it was his sanctuary. So, it was just fitting for Simple Pleasures to throw him on open mic night, a celebration of life ceremony.

"Just remember, a family is the one that you make and not only the one that you're born into," Riad said.

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Connie Chan Reelected

Continued from page 1

Visitacion Valley and the Bayview. Later she worked for former San Francisco District Attorney Kamala Harris, who is currently winding down her tenure as vice president to President Joe Biden.

Chan said she is constantly mindful of her constituents' challenges and concerns and works to find the best ways to solve problems and support the district. In Chan's eyes, a couple of the biggest challenges residents of District 1 face are homelessness and mental health illness. She said she hopes to see better transit as well as housing that people can afford in the Richmond in her next term. She also hopes to continue to bring more robust small businesses and welcome more tenants to the district.

In early December, Chan will be introducing legislation for the Alexandria Theatre's remodel. The building plan includes commercial or community space on the ground floor and 75 residential units above that, out of which 12% will be onsite affordable housing. All of the units will be two- and three-bedroom apartments creating the opportunity for new family housing in the Richmond.

After a hard-fought election, Chan said she laments that political conversations in San Francisco have become binary. Politicians and citizens are therefore forced to select one of two positions when it comes to controversial issues. She said she believes the City's biggest challenges require multifaceted solutions.

"This type of solution involves nuance and intellectually honest conversation about what's needed to solve issues such as homelessness," Chan said.

Chan said she has stayed off social media for two years to avoid toxic rhetoric online. She prefers to meet SF residents in person for conversations that she finds to be more organic and honest.

Proposition K – closing the Upper Great Highway to private vehicles – is an example of a highly polarizing issue from the recent election cycle. Chan said she will hold proponents of Prop. K accountable for the changes they proposed, and that were passed by the City's voters. She wants to ensure that the proposed changes for the road to become a park work for her constituents on the west side of the City.

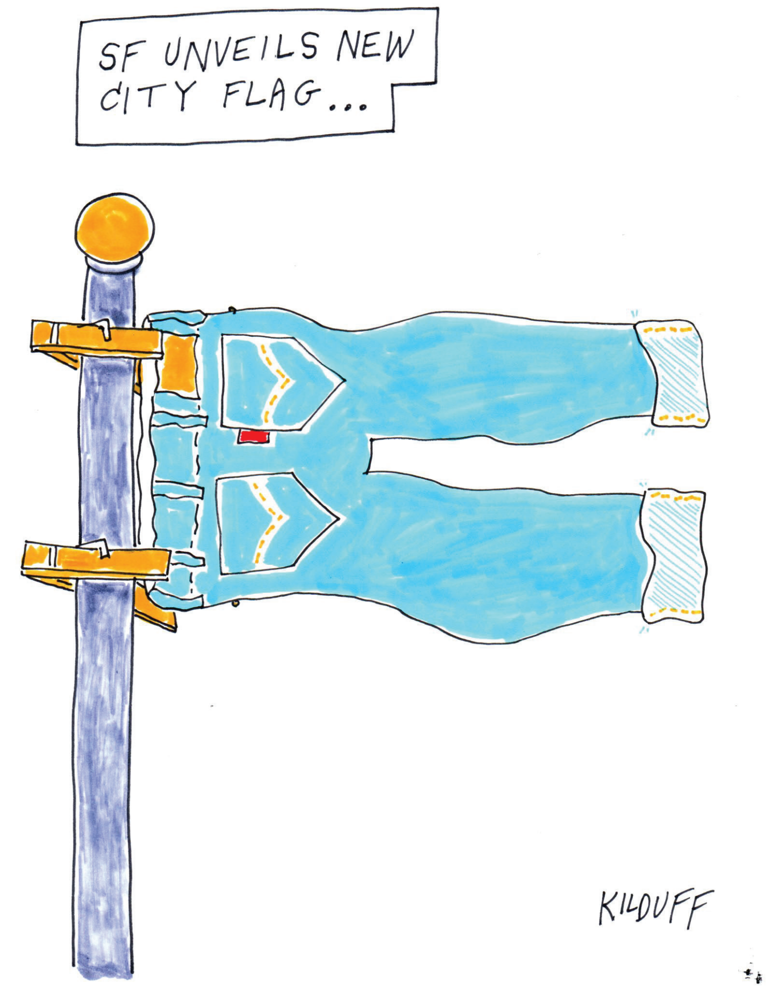
She emphasized that her door is always open to her colleagues and that she will invite proponents of Prop. K to discuss if there is room for a compromise regarding the closure of the Upper Great Highway.

In the upcoming term, Chan said she and her team are committed to continued responsiveness to constituent concerns, continuing a partnership with the Civic Joy Fund to bring back the Richmond District Night Market and other events to highlight the district's commercial corridors. She looks forward to supporting community needs during large events such as Outside Lands and collaborating with community-based organizations, local schools and seniors to best serve D1 residents. Chan and her team will also be working with the new operators of the former Cliff House location to help boost foot traffic in that area, as new businesses are expected to open in 2025.

Chan lives in the Richmond with her husband and son.

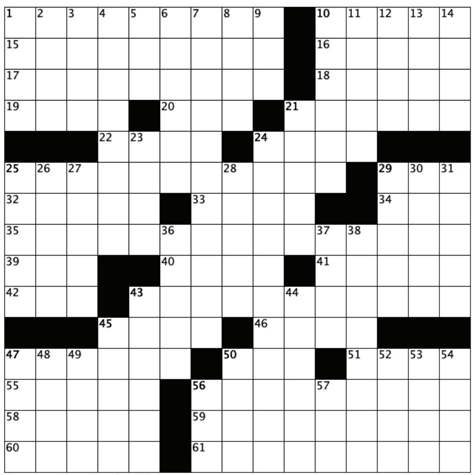
Kilduff's Korner

By Paul Kilduff


SF UNVEILS NEW CITY FLAG...
KILDUFF

Themeless

Jess Goldstein



© November 23rd, 2024

ACROSS

1. Polka-dot horse
10. "What's ___?" (classic prank)
15. Long distance swimmer who swam from Florida to Cuba
16. Dallas suburb
17. Critical trials
18. ___ cum laude
19. Like many early records
20. TGIF part
21. Pteri or Chomby
22. Go biking
24. Boston player, informally
25. Like some societies
29. "No ___, ands, or buts!"
32. Model brother of Bella and Gigi
33. "Can we have a ___?" (reality TV catchphrase)
34. Animation frame
35. Multi-step process of "getting ready"
39. 35mm initials
40. "The Fiddler" painter Chagall
41. Shoe fabric that doesn't do well in water
42. Unagi at a sushi counter
43. Non-orientable surface in mathematics sometimes made with construction paper
45. Neithers' partners
46. Scale button
47. Special person
50. Acronym sometimes acompanied by "B"
51. Slices (off)
55. Physicist for whom a paradox is named
56. Ones making cheesy jokes
58. Come up
59. "Damn, Daniel! Back ___ with the white vans!"
60. Craves
61. Classic hit by the Guess Who

DOWN

1. Actor Brody of "Nobody Wants This"
2. ___ de gallo
3. French bread?
4. Pyrenees resident
5. Big SoCal publication
6. Iroquois language
7. Bivalve parasites considered a delicacy
8. Pre-college exams
9. Pop-ups?
10. Encourage to buy the premium version, perhaps
11. Hybrid stone fruit
12. Not quite dry
13. "I'm paying!"
14. Diamond-encrusted pendant on Simone Biles' necklace
21. "Far out!"
23. "If memory serves," online
24. Board meating?
25. Dated
26. What a hightop sneaker covers
27. Go for a spin
28. "SNL" alumna Oteri
29. More treacherous in the winter
30. Big name in Italian handbags
31. Low-power mode for devices
36. Love, in Rome
37. "Red" letters
38. Apprenticeship
43. Funds
44. New Orleans footballers
45. Menu assurance
47. Nonstick pan brand
48. Many a character in the MCU
49. Blarney Stone's land
50. "The lady ___ protest too much..."
52. Antiaging cream brand
53. Bend at the bar
54. Strings used in payroll depts.
56. Pet that's not fetching?
57. Modern honey substitute?

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Commentary

Quentin L. Kopp

Follow the Money

Mark Twain once explained to readers in the 19th century: "I have never let my schooling interfere with my education."

President Ronald Reagan imparted such education, which is applicable after the Nov. 5 presidential election: "Freedom is never more than one generation from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected and handed down for them to do the same."

With Donald Trump in the White House, crazier but wilier than ever, we must fight the self-effacement at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington D.C., 20500.

There could perhaps be a new award nationally for the worst presidential appointment of all presidential administrations. I nominate Pete Hegseth, who paid a woman money in 2020 to settle a sexual assault claim from 2017 where he had a speaking engagement in Monterey, and last month became by default Mr. Trump's next nominee for secretary of Defense. The default was by former Congressman Matt Gaetz of Pennsylvania who withdrew from the fray amidst a House of Representatives Ethics Committee investigation of him of sexual assault. The Wall Street Journal instantly questioned the wisdom of that nomination, declaring the secretary of Defense "must have the president's trust." Amen!

We'll know after Hegseth's hearing whether another Trumpster's nomination is withdrawn amidst White House musical chairs. Add Robert F. Kennedy Jr. as secretary of Health and Human Services for ignominious recognition as cabinet secretaries. I was the late Bobby Kennedy's Lawyers Committee chairman for San Francisco in his 1968 primary campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination and met him at the Fairmont Hotel the night before he was assassinated in Los Angeles on primary day. He was a smart, tough, Harvard-educated leader. His son, ex-Santa Monica mayor, is an embarrassment to the Kennedy family and scientific advancement in medical care and treatment.

Maybe President-elect Trump can surprise us in foreign affairs. Otherwise, I anticipate his obsequiousness and association with Putin who manifestly seeks reiteration of the Soviet Union, first by conquering Ukraine, then by abandoning Israel to its historic enemies while NATO withers. I forecast no or little good from Trump's presidency and hope we survive as a free, fruitful and democratic nation of law, order, economic opportunity and source of aid to democratic nations.

Apropos my informing readers of SFMTA's (the "Muni," to old-timers like this columnist) budgetary gift of $11 million over two budget years (2024-2025 and 2025-2026), reader John Daniels notes a San Francisco Examiner story about SFMTA's $322 million expected 2026-27 deficit and preparation to cut Municipal Railway service now. Simultaneously, the City and the County confronts a budget deficit of almost $800 million for fiscal year 2025-2026.

Speaking of rail transit, the California High-Speed Rail Authority continues to bamboozle the tax-paying public, legislators and print media. A personal inspection by State Sen. Dave Cortese, a San Francisco Democrat and chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee revealed the myth that the Authority is actually building 171 miles of electrified tracks between Merced and Bakersfield. It can't. It hasn't, after 15 years of expending more than $16 billion of federal and state taxpayer money, laid any track and its current plan consists of regular tracks which would (if ever built) not be electrified.

As Sen. Cortese confirmed to me, it's only building viaducts to enable track to be laid. In November 2008, state voters approved a $9.95 billion general obligation bond issue promising San Francisco to Los Angeles electrified train service in less than three hours by 2020. I chaired the campaign as the president of the Authority governing board and author of 1996 legislation, as a state senator, establishing such Authority. Voters approved the bond by 52% to 48%. It has turned out to be one of California's memorable boondoggles, while the Authority committed "to delivering passenger rail service between 2030 and 2033" in a public "briefing" by staff on May 16. The Authority concedes, however, it has no funding. The 2008 bond money has been exhausted; there's no Barack Obama or Democratic Congress to appropriate federal taxpayer money.

Trump and his acolytes despise California – so, do Congressional Republican leaders. I apologize to California voters for persuading them to support a rail system built and operating successfully in Japan, France, Italy, Germany, Spain, Great Britain, Spain and, of course, the Chinese Communist dictatorship. It's possible the Authority will close shop next year, although our governor will be a presidential candidate and may generate some political pap to prevent the flop from being associated with him as he rules the circuit from Maine to Oregon and points in between.

As we welcome Daniel Lurie, a native son, as our next mayor in January and a few changes on the Board of Supervisors, including the departure of Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin, the most knowledgeable supervisor concerning our local government, I reflect on the July 18 online reporting by the Chronicle's Nami Sumida about S.F.'s highest-paid city employees. The highest compensated isn't Mayor London Breed, District Attorney Brooke Jenkins or Police Chief Bill Scott, all favorites of mine: It's Alison Romano, chief executive and investment officer in the Retirement Services, our pension office, with $842,000. Police Sgt. Frank Harrell received $765,000 of which some $450,000 constitutes overtime. It's more than twice his regular salary. Mayor Breed received $469,000 (God bless her), including $373,000 regular pay, $57,000 in retirement pay, $22,000 for medical and dental benefits and $17,000 for unemployment insurance and Social Security. Chief Scott obtained $547,000, Fire Chief Jeanine Nicholson secures $540,000 and Sheriff Paul Miyamoto earned $532,000. About 200 employees received more money than Mayor Breed, who is the highest paid California mayor. Supervisors receive $163,000 and are worth every penny thereof as District 4 voters contemplate recalling Supervisor Joel Engardio, the magistrate of closing the Upper Great Highway to private motor vehicles.

I conclude until 2025, as follows: "As democracy is perfected, the office of president represents, more and more closely, the inner soul of the people. On some great and glorious day, the plain folks of the land will reach their heart's desire and at last the White House will be adorned by a downright moron." That was H.L. Mencken's "On Politics: A Carnival of Buncombe." That's fitting.

Meanwhile, my family and I convey warm wishes to all San Franciscans for a Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas and healthy, happy new year.

Quentin Kopp is a former San Francisco supervisor, state senator, SF Ethics Commission member, president of the California High Speed Rail Authority governing board and retired Superior Court judge.

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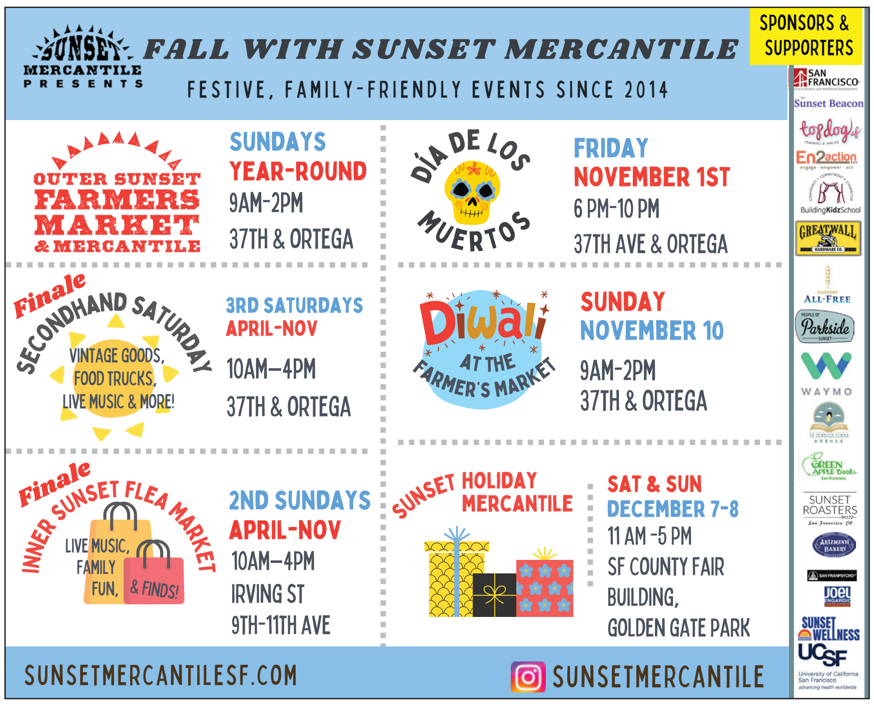

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CLEMENT STREET ART WALK

Clement Street Art Walk is a monthly community evening event bringing local art to the small businesses on Clement Street. Listen to live music, mingle with your neighbors and enjoy local artists featured at your favorite small businesses while you shop local. Every third Thursday of the month, 5-8 p.m. on Clement Street from Arguello Boulevard to Park Presidio Boulevard (and beyond). Learn more at clementstreetsf.com.

COMMENTARIES AND LETTERS

From the editor: All commentaries we publish are the opinions of the writers and should not be considered our editorial stances on issues. We strive to remain neutral and offer a balance of viewpoints. We invite readers who wish to express their opinions to send a letter to the editor to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Word limit for the newspaper is 350, for the website, 500. RichmondSunsetNews.com.

FELTON TECH SQUAD

Felton's Tech Squad is providing free basic tech support for older adults and people with disabilities in the Richmond District. Ask questions regarding how to navigate your smartphone, tablet or laptop. Drop-in for one-on-one session in English at the Richmond Branch Library (351 Ninth Ave.) on Friday, Dec. 13, 1:30-3 p.m. We are also seeking volunteers who speak English and/or Cantonese. For more information, call 415-474-1558 or email techsquad@felton.org. The Tech Squad is now introducing basic tech classes for older adults and adults with disabilities in Cantonese on Tuesdays 12:30-2 p.m. at the Richmond Senior Center (6221 Geary Blvd., third floor). For more information, call 415- 961-7043 or email sf-connected@felton.org.

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Richmond Neighborhood Center is seeking dedicated volunteers to help at our food pantries. Assist us in providing essential support to families in need. Sign up today at richmondsf.org/get-involved/volunteer.

FREE EVENTS AT THE SF PUBLIC LIBRARY, RICHMOND BRANCH
351 NINTH AVE., 415-355-5600

CHILDREN/FAMILY PROGRAMS:

"Storytime: For Babies." Playtime follows directly after the Storytime. Limited to 46 participants, tickets required. Mondays 11-11:30 a.m.

"Storytime: For Toddlers." Playtime follows directly after Storytime. Limited to 46 participants, tickets required. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11-11:30 a.m.

"Workshop: Lego Exoskeletons." Learn about animals' exoskeletons (outer skeletons) and then design and build one from Lego for a small stuffed creature. Bring your own toy or we will have ones on hand. For ages 5 and older. Youth under the age of 8 must be accompanied by an adult. Tuesday, Dec. 3, 3-4:30 p.m.

"Social: Game Time." Relax and play board games with family or friends: Connect 4, Scrabble, Chutes and Ladders and more. For children and their families. Sunday, Dec. 8, 2-4:30 p.m.

"Activity: Lego Free Play." Build skyscrapers, forts, castles or whatever your imagination desires with LEGO. For ages 5 and older. Dec. 10, 3:30-5 p.m.

PROGRAMS FOR TWEENS/TEENS:

"Activity: Crochet Earrings." Create your own crochet earrings with our librarians. For ages 10–18. Space limited. Reservations required: 415-355-5648. Thursday, Dec. 12, 4-6 p.m.

PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES:

"Presentation: Native Stories and Sounds with Paul Steward." Listen to the music and tales from Paul Steward, a tribal member of Elem Indian Colony of Pomo Indians of the Sulphur Bank Rancheria. Lecturer of Native American/American Indian Studies for CSU since 2016, Professor Steward specializes in the history of California and the local history and culture of the Bay Area and North Bay. Steward is a tribal member of Elem Indian Colony of Pomo Indians of the Sulphur Bank Rancheria near Clearlake Oaks, California. Raised on the reservation from birth until age 10, he learned his tribal culture from his father and paternal grandparents. Saturday, Dec. 7, 3-3:45 p.m. Search online to learn more about Paul Steward: website, YouTube, Instagram and Facebook

"Refuse Refuse: Neighborhood cleanup and Storytime." Led by community member Vince Yuen, meet at the 10th Avenue door of the Richmond Library to help with neighborhood clean-up. Every second Tuesday of the month. Tuesday, Dec. 10, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

ADULT PROGRAMS:

"Breath meditation and Gentle Yoga with Don Narin." Guided meditation for calming and joint stress release with a gentle form of yoga that anyone can do. No movement beyond what is comfortable for you. Very relaxing and calming. Every Thursday, 11 a.m.-noon.

"Tutorial: Tech Savy at 60+." Learn basics of tablets and iPhones. It is a seven-class series. Please bring your own devices: Apple/Android. The class is taught in Cantonese. Space is limited, please reserve: 415-355-5600. This program is in partnership with Self-Help for the Elderly. Wednesday, Dec. 4 and 18, 1:30-2:15 p.m.

"Workshop: CYC Disaster Preparedness Cycle Training." Do not let earthquakes catch you off guard. Come to all three disaster preparedness workshops to learn about earthquake preparedness. Attendees who complete all three workshops will receive a free disaster preparedness kit. Register at the reference desk or call 415-355-5600 to attend.

Pre Disaster: How to prepare an emergency supplies kit; During Disaster: How to protect yourself during an earthquake; Post Disaster: How to recover from the disaster. cycsf.org/program/csop/, Tuesday, Dec 10, 6-7 p.m.

"Read Together, Silent Book Club." Bring any book (fiction or nonfiction) for a period of silent reading followed by a discussion when you share what you are reading with others. The club meets every other Wednesday. Wednesday, Dec. 11, 3-5 p.m.

"Tutorial: Drop-In Tech Support for Older Adults with the Felton Institute Tech Squad." Get one-on-one help with your phone or tablet, searching the internet, setting up an email account and other basic computer tasks. Cantonese-speaking Tech Squad members are available to assist, Friday, Dec. 13, 1:30-3 p.m.

"Presentation: Learn About and Tour the Richmond Branch Library." Learn about the history of the Richmond District and the Richmond Branch Library. We will discuss the branch architecture and art and take a 10-minute tour to see all the details of the presentation. Saturday, Dec. 14, 4-5 p.m.

"Activity: DIY Christmas Ornament." Create a Christmas ornament for your friends or family. Space limited. Reservations required: 415-355-5600. Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2-2:30 p.m.

FREE PUPPIES

Two Akc Reg male and female Yorkie puppies free to a good home. If interested, contact danamorgan189@gmail.com.

GIFTS AT THE GARDEN - HOLIDAY MARKET

Support local and sustainable crafts this year at Gifts at the Garden, a free-to-attend curated market of sustainable, local and fair-trade gifts alongside exclusive Gardens of Golden Gate Park merchandise, books and art. The market will host free activities and a donation-based wrapping station. Proceeds benefit the Gardens of Golden Gate Park. Gardens members can shop two hours early on Saturday, Dec. 14. To beat the crowds and shop the best selection, become a member at gggp.org. Featured programs include Haight Street Art Center, family fun with San Francisco Bay Area Moms, Say Ya! Photo Booth, the Gardens of Golden Gate Park Bookstore and Plant Shop and more. San Francisco County Fair Building, 1199 Ninth Ave.

For more information, call Jamie Chan at 415-661-1316, email jchan@gggp.org or go to gggp.org. Saturday, Dec. 14, noon-5 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 15, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Tickets/registration: gggp.org/event/gifts-at-the-garden/.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy December birthday to Arya, Jarrod B., Livvy and Saffy Basey, Jen Berman, Arlene Bradlyn, Virginia Carr, Derrick Carvajal, Ryan 'Puddin Pants' Chan, Helen Curran, Luca "The Bazooka" Dermu, Aaron Ding, Nico Eshel, Justine Fields, Brandon Gee, Sima Grabovsky, Brandon Hom, Kim Hom, Mackenzie Huynh, Colleen Ishida, Maria Jesue, Paul Kozakiewicz, Suzanne Leigh, Mallory Lue, Melissa Ann Lue, Shannon "Spilly" Magnin, Dave Mana, Brittany B. Markert, Bryan Marsh, Leland Monagle, Bob Reinheimer, Laurie Rittman, Austin Rowland, Reid Russell, Boden Snyder, Shay Sosa, Amanda Tran, Marisa Lue Tse, Millie Young, David Wang, Athena Weber, Alan Randall Wong, Allison J. Wong, David Wong and Vikki Wong. *To add a name to the monthly birthday list, email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Free.*

"PET PIX"

Send in a photo of your beloved pet to be featured in our "Pet Pix" feature. Send up to three jpegs with your pet's name to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com by the 22nd of the month.

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NEIGHBORS' NIGHT

You're invited to Neighbors' Night! Giving Tuesday, Dec. 3, 5-8pm. Join us for a cozy evening of holiday fun! Enjoy festive activities, warm treats and a special performance by the Richmond Senior Choir. Support our Food Drive for the One Richmond Community Market. Don't miss the magical holiday lights at The Richmond Neighborhood Center. Learn more at richmondsf.org.

REFUSE REFUSE CLEANUPS

Thursday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-noon, Fort Miley Cleanup and Workday, mobilize.us/togethersf/

Continued on page 13

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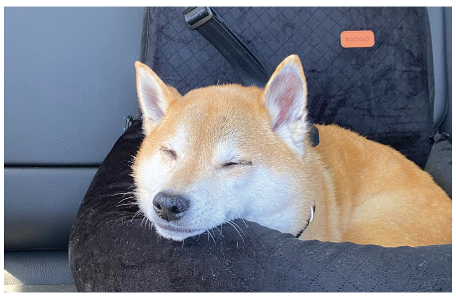
Pet Pix



Send up to three photos of your pet to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com by the 15th of the month for consideration for "Pet Pix." Please include your pet's name.

Letters to the Editor

Editor:

My name is Vy (Vee), and my husband and I became new residents of the Outer Sunset area two years ago. One of the things that made us fall in love with this neighborhood was discovering your local newspaper — on the day we toured our home, we saw a copy of the Sunset Beacon on the front porch, and it felt like an instant connection to the community. We truly appreciate the work you do to keep us informed and united.

I noticed that you feature a "Pet Pix" section and would love to introduce our dear Shiba Inu, Boba. We've raised him since he was a puppy, and he's now almost 12 years old, celebrating his next birthday in January. Boba is a purebred Shiba Inu with a warm, gentle spirit and a unique personality. Though true to his breed's notorious stubbornness and sassiness, he's unusually calm, kind and sweet.

Boba has had quite a journey recently. He underwent several surgeries to treat chronic ear infections and lung issues, which were very hard on him. There was a time when we feared we might lose him, but his resilience and will to keep fighting were truly inspiring. Now, he's back to his happy self, enjoying naps, his favorite burgers, and, of course, striking a pose whenever there's a camera around.

Thank you so much for your consideration, and for all that you do for the Richmond/Sunset community!

Vy

Editor:

Like many residents of the Outer Richmond District, I am dismayed that Proposition K passed. The Upper Great Highway (UGH) is a major artery for those who commute to and from the peninsula.

During the weekend closures of UGH, traffic on 19th Avenue and Sunset Boulevard has been awful. We can expect this problem to worsen in the near future when UGH is permanently closed.

I understand that the proponents of Prop. K, and a similar measure that closed JFK Drive to cars a couple of years ago, would like everyone to take public transit. However, this is not practical for many reasons. First, public transit serves only some parts of the City. It is convenient if, for example, one needs to go from the Richmond District to downtown for work, or from the Richmond to Stonestown for shopping. But many residents have jobs outside of the City or work odd hours when public transit is unreliable or not available.

In addition, safety is a concern. Homeless people with dubious hygiene often board buses. Sometimes they are drunk. Occasionally they are loud, obnoxious or even aggressive.

Finally, if everyone in the City were to take public transit, the system would collapse under its own weight. There are not enough buses to serve the entire City or even a fraction of it.

All of this is to say that the proponents of Prop. K (and similar measures) are putting the cart before the horse. If they want people to get out of their cars and onto public transit, the way to do that is not to inconvenience drivers by closing roads and hoping they get the hint. The way to do it is to build more, better and safer public transportation.

Scott Kiddy

Editor:

I enjoyed a nice walk on the Golden Gate Park "Promenade," aka JFK Drive, on a recent Sunday. Lots of people were enjoying themselves, whether it was walkers or cyclists. The number of people able to visit on weekends greatly outnumber those that visit during the week. The same situation exists for the Upper Great Highway. Unfortunately, it didn't matter to the supervisors who voted to put Proposition K on the

Continued on page 12

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From the Editor

Michael Durand

Celebrating Good Fortune

We just celebrated my favorite holiday: Thanksgiving.

In addition to enjoying great food, gratitude is at the very core of my being. I am sincerely thankful for so many people and things in my life.

I feel extraordinarily lucky to have been born into a loving family, to have been brought up in a great little town on Long Island in New York (yay, Merrick!), to go to a great college (thank you, Stony Brook) and to be motivated to move to San Francisco in 1978.

I truly love this City and feel especially lucky to be connected to the Richmond and Sunset districts. When the opportunity to buy the Richmond Review and Sunset Beacon newspapers came up almost six years ago, I had the good fortune to purchase them from a friend who has kept a close eye on his babies over these years. Paul Kozakiewicz started both publications and helps me edit the final copies every month. Trust me, everyone needs an editor – even editors.

I have had the opportunity to work with some terrific writers and am especially proud of the students who had the courage to step forward and offer to write for their neighborhood papers. In addition to several talented high school students who have submitted stories for publication, one of our better writers is in the eighth grade. He recently turned 13 years old. I am so proud of him.

Good Luck, Angelina!

I received word, recently, that Angelina of Angelina's Deli and Cafe will be retiring soon.

Angelina's was voted "best deli" in the Richmond District by the readers of the Richmond Review in a survey we conducted several years ago. If you haven't tried the great food they serve,

Continued on page 13

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Holidays with the Symphony

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December 1

Holiday Cirque
December 2

The Colors of Christmas
December 3–4

Handel's *Messiah*
December 6–7

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December 8

Holiday Brass
December 11

The Muppet Christmas Carol—In Concert
December 12 & 14

Holiday Gaiety
December 13

Peter and the Wolf
December 15

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December 17–18

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Assembly

Assemblymember Phil Ting

Goodbye and Thank You

My time as your Assemblymember representing the west side of San Francisco has come to an end, after reaching the maximum 12 years dictated by term limits.

I appreciate your support, re-electing me at every opportunity and attending my numerous town halls, community breakfasts, bike fairs and more. It has been an honor of a lifetime to serve you. I never had ambitions to be a state lawmaker, and I was as surprised as my immigrant parents that a career in government is where I ended up.

After my father came to America, he worked as a lighting technician at CBS Studios in Los Angeles. He thought this was the most amazing place in the world. And it is. Having been born and raised in California, I owe everything that I've become to this great state. I'm a product of public education – from grade school all the way through college.

I sought public office because I wanted the same opportunity for all Californians and to make the lives of 40 million people better. I came to Sacramento on the heels of the Great Recession, and I remember reading the Economist's cover story, asking if the California Dream is over. Clearly, no.

Since then, the Golden State went from eighth largest economy in world to number five. Among the highlights that strengthened our standing, whether through policy or as Assembly budget chair:

Education

- K-12 per-pupil spending is now approaching $24,000, the highest in state history.
- Creation of transitional kindergarten.
- Universal school meals, regardless of income.
- Thousands more slots for California students at U.C. and Cal State schools.
- Increased financial aid or stipends through CalGrants, the Middle-Class Scholarship program and the nation's largest service corps.

Housing

- Affordable housing projects are prioritized on surplus public lands.
- Made it more difficult to delay residential construction once CEQA requirements are met.
- Assisted first-time home buyers with down payment assistance.
- Lessened bureaucracy for building backyard units called ADUs.
- Tax incentives for developers to convert empty commercial spaces in downtown San Francisco into housing.

Safety Net Programs

- Expansion of Medi-Cal to cover health care for lower-income Californians, regardless of immigration status.
- Mental health services for students, as schools reopened from the pandemic.
- Financial assistance to distressed hospitals, including Seton Medical Center in Daly City.
- Refrigeration grants to corner markets, enabling them to sell fresh produce in neighborhoods lacking grocery stores.

Equity and Fairness

- Legacy admissions coming to end, banning private universities and colleges from giving preferential treatment to applicants related to alumni and wealthy donors.
- Single-user restrooms must be accessible to all.
- Allow unjustly long incarceration periods to be re-evaluated for resentencing.
- Unprecedented investment in AAPI communities during the pandemic to stop Asian hate attacks.

Environment

- Clean car tax incentives to ramp up California's transition away from fossil fuels and necessary charging infrastructure.
- Shortened the timeline for school districts to change over to electric buses.
- Kept the Golden Gate Bridge and state-owned bridges toll-free for bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Created a mobile recycling center for beverage containers.
- Banned harmful PFAS chemicals from food wrappers, household fabrics and outdoor wear.

In California, we have always written our own story, forging ahead before most states – even countries. And I'm proud of the work we did. I could not have done it all without my staff, past and present, who have helped me along the way – whether it was in San Francisco or up at the State Capitol. They worked hard, and I am appreciative of their efforts that resulted in so many accomplishments.

I have yet to decide what I will do next. However, you can follow my non-state accounts, such as X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, and LinkedIn to keep up on my professional endeavors. To stay in touch, my email is now info@philting.com.

Phil Ting represents the 19th Assembly District, which includes the west side of San Francisco along with the communities of Broadmoor, Colma, and Daly City as well as parts of South San Francisco and San Bruno.

Phil Ting represents the 19th Assembly District, which includes the west side of San Francisco along with the communities of Broadmoor, Colma and Daly City as well as part of South San Francisco. Find an archive of his columns at RichmondSunsetNews.com.

Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 10

ballot and the voters who approved it.

Working people – as well as students who attend school – are not able to visit these recreation destinations during the week. Meanwhile, the smaller population that is able to has imposed hardship on the citizens who are busy with work and school during the week. The midweek closing of JFK Drive has resulted in daily bumper-to-bumper traffic on Crossover Drive that didn't exist on a daily basis prior to the closing. Some of us locals crossed the park via the Band Concourse which helped alleviate the traffic that accumulates on Park Presidio Boulevard and 19th Avenue.

Traffic hardship – this time in the heart of the Sunset District – will once again be the result of Prop. K's passing. People trying to get to and from work, students attending school, etc., will all be subject to longer, congested rides so the citizens not working or attending school can access the Upper Great Highway with very few other people.

Any why is that? Because roadways that have served the needs of taxpaying citizens for literally generations are now dealing with the repercussions of their closure on a daily basis. I'm sure the workers and students of San Mateo County who had no say on Prop. K would wholeheartedly agree. Successful compromises that served the greater good for several years were tossed aside.

I hope this ongoing inconsideration of the working class and students by our civic leaders and fellow voters will be recognized at some point. There's no doubt people are in favor of parks, cycling, walking, etc. Unfortunately, the passing of Prop. K was primarily due to voters whose passage did not have any adverse effect on them.

I hope, in the future, when all concerned make decisions such as JFK Drive and the Upper Great Highway, more consideration is given to the majority of people who are busy with their lives on Mondays through Fridays and who can only "recreate" on the weekends.

Curt Cournale

Editor:

Since Prop. K lost, I believe there is a better solution for all those involved.

If, in the near future, we can tear out the old road on the Upper Great Highway and replace it with a tunnel for cars, trucks, vans, jeeps, motorcycles, etc., then a new path could be built on top of the tunnel and dirt and grass put there for people to enjoy safely on top. I see this as a win-win for everyone.

I was a gardener at the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department for more than 14 years, from 1995 to 2010. Since San Francisco is the second-most-crowded city in the United States after New York City, it only makes sense to me that this happens very soon.

The new tunnel must extend from Sloat Boulevard to Lincoln Way. If this takes place, that should help stop 19th Avenue and Sunset Boulevard from being overcrowded. Fixing the area next to the Pacific Ocean constantly will hopefully end erosion plus other potential problems too.

G.L. Hastings

Send letters to:

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Who's on Santa's good list?

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued from page 9

event/641163/.
Thursday, Dec. 5, 3:30-4:30 p.m., One Richmond Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/528372/.
Friday, Dec. 6, 8-9 a.m., Morning Coffee Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/513212/.
Friday, Dec. 6, 3:30-5 p.m., Clement Street Happy Hour Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/437706/.
Saturday., Dec. 7, 10-11:30 a.m., KEEP Ocean Beach Clean, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/399341/.
Tuesday, Dec. 10, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Richmond Library Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/553131/.
Thu, Dec. 12, 10 a.m.-noon, Fort Miley Cleanup and Workday, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/641163/.
Saturday, Dec. 14, 10-11:30 a.m., KEEP Ocean Beach Clean, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/399341/.
Thursday, Dec. 19, 10 a.m.-noon, Fort Miley Cleanup and Workday, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/641163/.
Thursday, Dec. 19, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Rise and Grind Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/413075/.
Friday, Dec. 20, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Richmond Neighborhood Center Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/743712/.
Saturday, Dec. 21, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Central Richmond Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/613409/.
Saturday, Dec. 21, 10-11:30 a.m., KEEP Ocean Beach Clean, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/399341/.
Saturday, Dec. 28, 10 a.m.-noon, Richmond District Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/441884/.
Saturday, Dec. 28, 10-11:30 a.m., KEEP Ocean Beach Clean, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/399341/.

ONE RICHMOND COMMUNITY MARKET HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

This holiday season, donate non-perishable food items to support neighbors in need! Your generosity will ensure families will have access to healthy and nutritious food all winter long. Dec. 3-20, place items in the donation bin in front of The Richmond Neighborhood Center, 741 30th Ave. Learn more at onerichmondsf.com/food-drive.

SALVATION ARMY PINEHURST HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

Silent Auction, Gifts, Jewelry, Bakery, Homemade piroshkis, holiday decorations, pictures with Santa and Mrs Claus and more. Saturday, Dec. 7, 11 a.m-3 p.m., free. Pinehurst Lodge, 2685 30th Ave. at Wawona Street. For more information, email nevadasissy@yahoo.com.

STAMP COLLECTOR AND STAMP COLLECTIONS

Stamp collector is buying stamps and stamp collections. I am buying "older stamps" from the 1800s to 1930. American Philatelic Society member since 1986. Pictures are appreciated. Call or text message 415-533-0761.

THANK YOU!

Sincere thanks to the readers who generously donated to the Richmond Review and those who signed up on the Patreon funding campaign. Your contributions helps keep us financially healthy. If you signed up or donated and haven't received Richmond Review branded products (tote bag, pens, coffee mug, hat or shirt), please send an email to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. We would also like to share just your name in the paper to thank you. Please let us know if that is OK. To donate, please visit our website to sign up for our Patreon campaign, send a check to Richmond Review, P.O. Box 16035, SF, CA, 94116 or send via PayPal to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Thank you!

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Announcements run in the Richmond Review and Sunset Beacon newspapers (36,200 copies) and on RichmondSunsetNews.com (average of 20,000 views per month). Ads must be pre-paid. Deadline: 22nd of the month. Mail check to: P.O. Box 16035, S.F., CA 94116 or use PayPal to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Call 415-706-6428 or email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com for more details.

FREE: Add a name to the monthly birthday list or a community event announcements. Free.

We support small businesses: Free announcements for small businesses celebrating an anniversary or other significant milestone or event. Send announcement to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com.

From the Editor

Continued from page 11

make your way to California and 22nd. Delicious food and great people await you.

Angelina's has been a supporter of the Richmond Review for more than 30 years! In addition to Angelina's monthly ad, the great Maria Gloria (Angelina's mom) has been a very generous contributor to help our little neighborhood paper survive. We are sincerely grateful for them both. Thank you.

Best wishes to Angelina for a long, healthy and happy retirement.

Congratulations Connie Chan

Connie Chan won a close election to remain the supervisor of the Richmond District. At one point during the vote tallying process, both she and one of her opponents, Marjan Philhour, were tied at 11,001 votes each.

I wish Connie a very successful term working hard for the Richmond.

Happy holidays to all!

Michael Durand is the editor and publisher of the Richmond Review and Sunset Beacon newspapers and the RichmondSunsetNews.com website. He can be reached at Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com.

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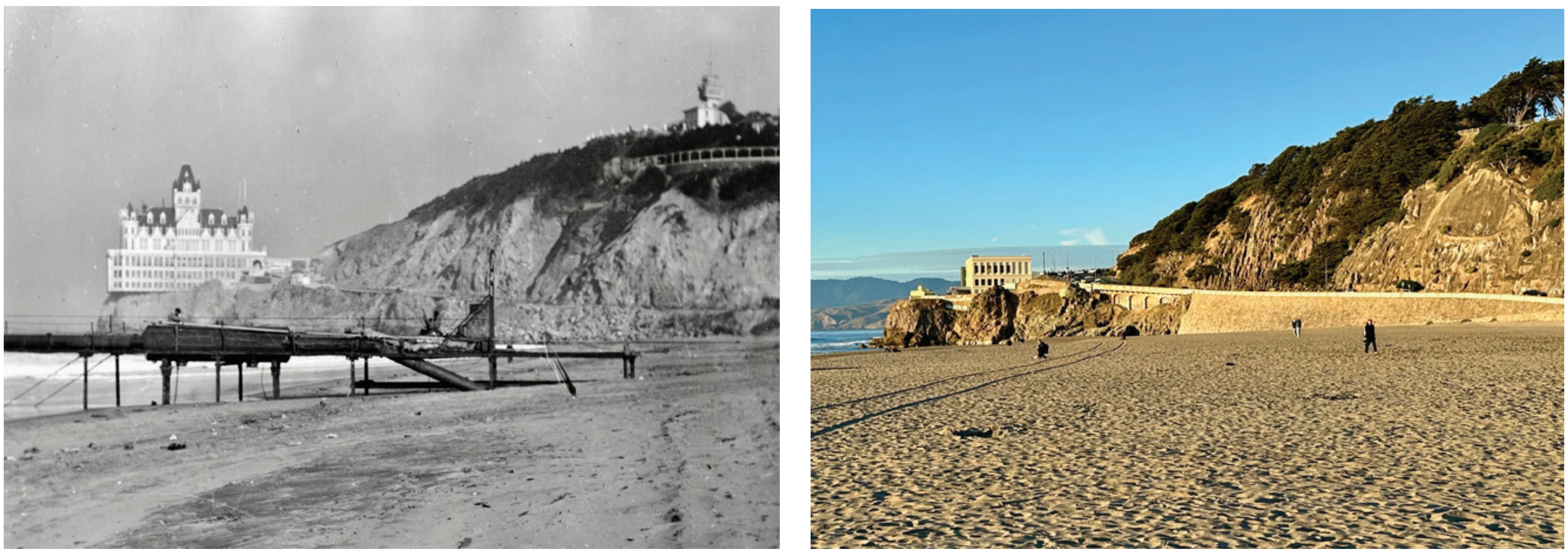
‘Then and Now’: Lurline Pier and Cliff House



Left: The view looking north on Ocean Beach circa 1900 shows the second Cliff House and Sutro Heights. The Victorian-style building survived the 1906 earthquake but burned down in 1907. The Lurline Pier is in the foreground. The pier held a pipeline that pumped saltwater to the Olympic Club downtown on Post Street between Taylor and Mason streets. *Photo courtesy of a private collector/Western Neighborhoods Project/OpenSFHistory.* Right: The modern Cliff House has been closed since the COVID-19 pandemic. A new restaurant is scheduled to open in its place in 2025. *Photo by Michael Durand.*

Internet Archive

Continued from page 1

The digital library at the Internet Archive is housed in what was previously a Christian Science church on Funston Avenue and Clement Street. *Photo by Michael Durand.*

“We’re a library, and one of the functions of a library is to be available to its patrons,” Graham said. “Now, we’re a digital library, first and foremost, so you don’t need to physically be here to benefit from our services, but it does give us a way to learn more about what people’s interests are, and for them to learn more about what we have to offer.”

The Archive has been in the news in recent months as a result of threats to its mission, most recently cyberattacks which exposed user data and put many of its operations on hold for more than a month. For Graham, the Archive is just one among every library in the world experiencing an increasingly hostile landscape. Libraries on the whole “are under attack from a variety of vectors,” he said, citing book bans and budget cuts, in addition to cyberattacks, from which “libraries all over the world have suffered.”

Another of those vectors, for the Internet Archive at least, is lawsuits. One of the two recent legal battles over copyright – Hachette v. Internet Archive – has changed the way the Archive can offer certain digital materials, limiting its book lending services.

“It’s a devastating loss,” said Lila Bailey, the Archive’s senior policy counsel. “It has already represented a huge hit to access to information,” she said of the recent Second Circuit Court decision.

Still, Bailey believes in the mission of the Archive. Outside of her official capacity as the senior attorney, her experience in copyright law led her to organize Public Domain Day at the archive, an event that celebrates new additions to the public domain after their copyrights expire.

“This is the community that is here to shepherd this shared cultural heritage into the modern era,” she said.

For Bailey, the Archive’s physical building plays a significant role in the effort of community building.

“It’s not downtown, it’s not a Silicon Valley-style open work plan, it’s a church,” she said. “It’s this space that gets to be both hyper-local and global at the same time.”

The Archive also works closely with local artists, most recently hosting Oakland-based fiber installation artist Swilk for a six-month residency program. Swilk’s work culminated in November with a piece entitled “When you’re looking for something, it’s important to know who was in love.” The woven installation incorporated the Internet Archive’s records in real time with “motors that were designed to respond as people access historic HIV documents that were compiled for the project” from the Internet Archive, according to the artist.

In part, the work calls attention to who uses the Archive and why.

“There were a lot of people who were obviously just nostalgic for these resources and revisiting them, who lived through this time and were going back,” Swilk said. “But also, there were a lot of digital archivists and people who were doing specific research in this field. I found a lot of academics were also still accessing this information because people are having to retrace steps to document this history.”

The work weaves connections between the histories of HIV, the internet, and San Francisco, and its opening reception last month brought people with connections to that history together.

“I spoke with so, so many people about the ways that their own lives have intersected with the subject matter,” Swilk said.

For Swilk, documents on the Internet Archive also represent a chance to uncover secret histories.

“When people died, it was often their secret lovers who kept their stuff,” Swilk said. “And many of these documents and artifacts at this time are still just in people’s garages and attics and storage rooms. And just this idea that people were actively mapping the world and landscaping the world with these relationships that otherwise were kept secret at that time in order to validate and document this history that was so, so, so crucial and saved so many lives.”

For art projects director Amir Esfahani, who works with several artists every year through the Internet Archive, Swilk’s work represents the potential of the Archive in artists’ hands.

“So much of this early HIV data and human experience on the web would have been lost if the Internet Archive did not have it,” he said. “I think it is impossible to think about art these days without technology, unless you are just working very technically on something like en plein air landscape painting or something like that. You can’t be connected to the world without being online, and archive.org, especially the Wayback Machine, is the holder of so much modern data that is on the verge of either being lost or being manipulated.”

“I felt a deeply human connection to the ways that we think about data,” Swilk said. “So much of the data that is digital often culturally gets couched as cold and removed from other people, but all of the things that were being looped into this project were very much a product of a very strong sense of humanity that people had amongst one another and were representative of the love that people shared for each other as well.”

Other events at the Archive include film screenings, panel discussions and presentations, as well as programming by other organizations, such as The Intersection of Art and Technology (TIAT), which gave 10 artists a platform to present their digital (non-commercial) creations in the Archive’s auditorium.

“It is vital for folks to have a place to meet physically and re-calibrate to their fellow humans,” said Evan Sirchuk, the Archive’s community and events coordinator. “I want to host events that draw folks into opportunities to meet people outside of our own narrow social niches. Hopefully they will recall those positive real-life interactions when they are exposed to negative finger-pointing narratives online,” he said.

“Recently we have found ourselves hosting a number of political forums, debates, and community meetings,” said facilities manager Kevin O’Heir. “It seems increasingly rare to find these places where people can interact and learn about their communities, so we’re happy to help fill that void.”

O’Heir also manages a weekly coworking meeting for members of DWeb (short for Decentralized Web), a coalition of technologists and thinkers who work closely with the Internet Archive to plan events and to collaborate toward alternative visions for the future of the web. DWebbers generally see a few crucial mistakes in the history of the development of the commercial internet.

“We’re basically trying to move back in the opposite direction, where we get more power to the users, everything’s less centralized,” said “DWebber” and philosopher Rex Riepe.

For Day Waterbury, DWeb is fundamentally about community. “Working tech is being built,” Waterbury said. “But more than that, webs of trust are being built.”

It is easy to feel today that there are two versions of everything – one real and one virtual. The Internet Archive on Funston Avenue helps to connect us to the Internet Archive by opening its doors to the public, reconnecting us to the humanity latent in our own technology and offering a vision of the internet that could be.

In addition to its various programmed events, the Archive opens its doors to the public for free tours every Friday at 1 p.m. Tours are “typically led by their founder Brewster Kahle or a senior director. These are open to the public, no need to register, and a great way to learn about a wonderful institution that exists in our neighborhood,” according to O’Heir.

The Internet Archive is located at 300 Funston Ave. Learn more at Archive.org.

After Proposition K Passed, What Is Next for the Upper Great Highway?

By Megan Robertson

The four-lane highway overlooking Ocean Beach became the site of one of the most heated political disputes in San Francisco this election cycle.

Proposition K, a ballot measure which aimed to permanently shutdown the stretch of the Upper Great Highway (UGH) from Lincoln Way to Sloat Boulevard and convert it into a full-time city park, passed Nov. 5.

Supporters find excitement in the expansion of the City's part-time public space, which has been closed to most vehicles on weekends and holidays since 2020. Opposition for shutting down this space largely comes from residents who commute to Daly City and the South Bay via the highway, along with those who have concerns over the rerouting of commuter traffic.

Despite being shot down by approximately 60% of Sunset District and 70% of Richmond District voters, the measure passed citywide by 54.7%, with support coming mostly from the City's eastside residents.

Now, the City is quickly working to fully activate the space as a "car-free promenade" by early next year. On Nov. 21, the City was awarded a $1 million grant from the California State Coastal Conservancy to fund art projects, water fountains, trash bins, event programming and dune restoration.

The City is also in the process of applying for a Coastal Commission permit, which is needed before the space can be actualized as a city park. The current weekend shutdown agreement remains in-place until the City obtains this permit, or until the already scheduled end of the program on Dec. 31, 2025, whichever comes first.

"We're really excited that the San Franciscans see and share the vision that we've had for years. We're excited to get to work to make that vision come to fruition," said Lucas Lux, board president of Friends of the Great Highway Park.

For the past four years, the UGH has gone through different iterations of public access. It was first shut-down to traffic – with the exception of Muni and emergency vehicles – in 2020 due to COVID-19. After a prolonged period of closure, community groups, like Open the Great Highway and Friends of the Great Highway, formed in response to residents' concerns.

In 2022 the current agreement was put in place, which only shut the road on weekends and holidays. Vin Budhai, founder of the Open the Great Highway/"No on K" campaign, said this agreement worked for both recreational park-goers and weekly commuters.

"(Our) campaign was just all about leaving the compromise in place," Budhai said. "The commuters get what they want. And the folks who want the park, they get what they want."

This summer, when District 4 Supervisor Joel Engardio introduced Proposition K to the ballot, it became "an all or nothing game," Budhai said. "That's why I came back into the picture to fight it."

The latest data available show more than 14,000 vehicles utilize the Great Highway each weekday, according to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) and the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department. Budhai is one of many Sunset residents who worry about where that traffic will go.

"All those cars are now going to flood through our neighborhood streets, which they're not designed for. And 19th Avenue and Sunset Boulevard are not capable of handling that traffic," Budhai said.

To mitigate this concern, the City announced in a Nov. 21 press release they will be making the following modifications/improvements to prepare for rerouted traffic in the Sunset District:

- Repaving Sunset Boulevard.
- Activating a new signal at Sloat Boulevard and Skyline Boulevard.
- Activating a new signal at Skyline Boulevard and the Upper Great Highway.
- Traffic changes to the promenade intersections of the Great Highway at Lincoln Way and Sloat Boulevard.

Additionally, the City stated they have "installed 25 speed humps and 12 stop signs on directly adjacent streets to Great Highway." They plan to install traffic signals "along the Lincoln Way corridor at La Playa Street, 41st Avenue and 45th Avenue."

"Regardless of how you voted on Prop. K, we all share the same passion for making our neighborhood a better place," Lux said. "We are excited and look forward to working with all of our neighbors on making the park the best it can be and addressing any concerns that folks have on the traffic impact on the streets that we live on."

Although Budhai said his Open the Great Highway/"No on K" campaign is in discussion with "Yes on K" members, their fight is not yet over.

"I am keeping my options open to try to figure out ways to get the highway reopened," Budhai said. "Even though we lost on Proposition K, we're still going to keep advocating for our neighborhood, for the Sunset and for the Great Highway. We're not giving up the fight."

The closed-to-traffic Upper Great Highway on Sunday, Dec. 1, 2024, is filled with pedestrians and bicyclists, part of what Prop. K proponents envision full time in the future. The working plan is to turn the area into a park. *Photo by Michael Durand.*

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